

Dear Senator Osten, Senator Formica and Senator Walker,

I urge you to fervently and financially support our state's magnet schools to ensure they move forward, fully equipped to provide the highest quality education possible for our state's children. I am a resident of Amston, CT and a teacher of twenty years. I have been employed by CREC for over eleven years and know the value of the educational experience available to our students. Magnet schools like mine are exceptionally diverse learning environments, providing invaluable life-enriching learning experiences that positively impact children and young adults for the rest of their lives. My school and the many others like it, provide a unique opportunity for our students to explore and learn based on a theme that connects with their interests. The facilities are of the highest quality and the curriculum is rigorous and cutting edge. Students are challenged and strive to meet these challenges. It is amazing to see the growth that our children achieve both academically and socially. In addition, our students are being prepared to meet the challenges of an increasingly evolving world. We help to provide the foundational skills to help them meet the demands of an ever-changing work environment. You will find our students attending colleges and universities all over the nation and the world. They are becoming the leaders of today and tomorrow. This is due to the prior commitment to magnet schools undertaken by the Connecticut Legislature. This support must continue. It must. There is no room to let up. There is no excuse to defund the education of a child, a young adult. Look them in the eye and say, "sorry, we don't have the money for you." Find a way to make it work for them, too. It is what is right. And that is all that matters. What is right.

**David F. Jones**